

The Spirit

This Month's Focus: Living the Plugged-In College Life

By Menelik Joseph

Have you heard the one about the kid who made billions of dollars with a website? It's no joke, but if it was the punch-line would be that you didn't think of it first. Wishful thinking whispers that this is the weirdest thing the Internet's ever sparked, but there are even more strange tales involving electronics, particularly overseas where men have been said to play online games till they literally die of starvation.

But that's neither here nor there, right? These are myths and half-truths and none of them could ever even dream of affecting the average St Joes student... right? Maybe. We live lives that are fundamentally connected to machines and the internet; it's silly to assume that this has no impact on our ability to function as students.

But who's to say that this impact is negative? Well, take video games, for example, and cases like that of Lee Seung Seop. The Korean man played a game called World of Warcraft, also known as WoW, for 50 hours straight before dying. WoW, a persistent online world where players can create new identities and go on adventures, is arguably the best possible example of living a plugged-in life. I sat down with a SJC student, anonymously dubbed "Bill", to see how close this level of addiction hits to home.

"I can't play [bleep]ing WoW!" He exclaimed, almost automatically. Bill was only 32 hours away from joining our friend in Korea, with a personal record of 18 hours spent playing the game. During our interview, he seemed visibly irritated to be unable to play the game known for hooking 12 million people worldwide (according to statistic published on the website massively.com which caters to online gamers.) Bill's complaints when we sat down were because the game had been taken offline temporarily, ostensibly so its creators could improve it by updating it with "patches" designed to keep the experience fresh enough to keep people, often students, playing. To put it in his own words: "The patch is too big, it's 11 gigs. They make you download the first which is 4

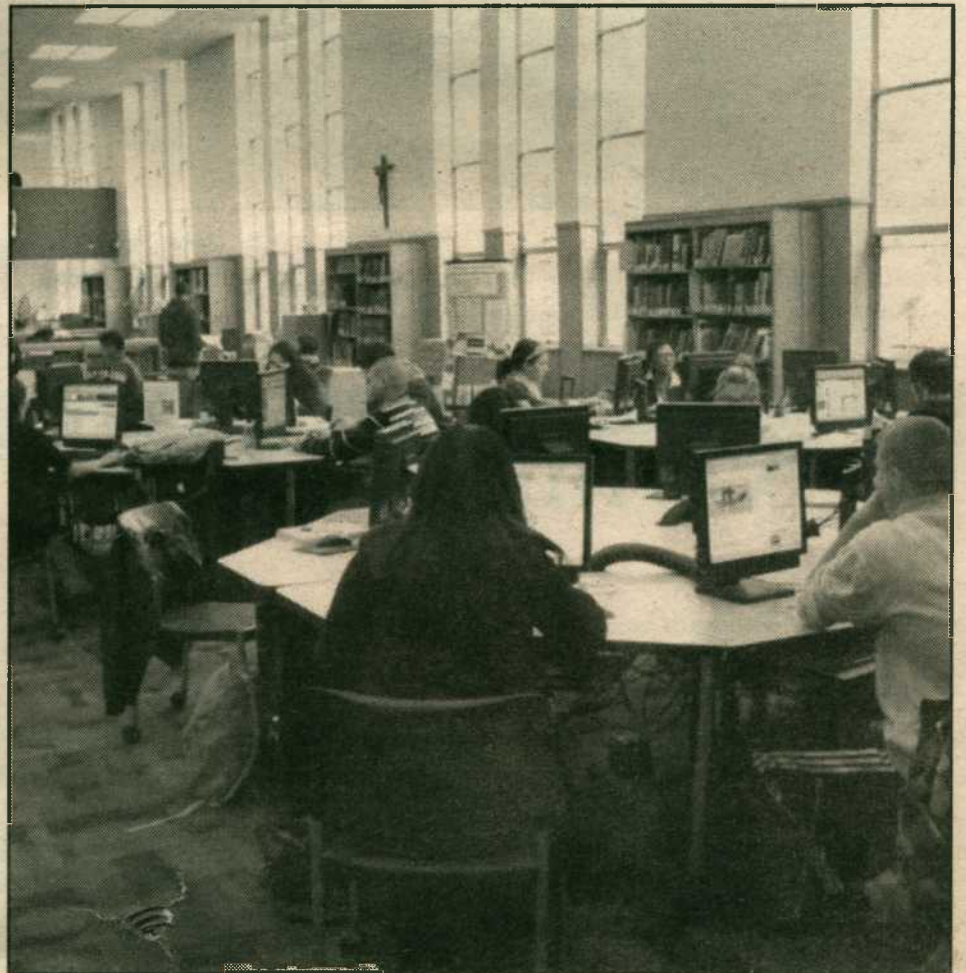
gigs, then they make you do an update which is 7 gigs." WoW has been evolving and keeping Bill hooked since 2006. The tradeoff is that he's had to pay monthly fees for access to the game and its other perks; he's paid a loose estimate of \$972. But it's not all addiction and brimstone. Video games, like most things, are perfectly fine if used in moderation. Bill maintains a healthy GPA and active social life.

And it's unfair to paint a picture of the average student's relation to machines using video games as the prime example. They are a form of entertainment, and one can argue that students aren't supposed to be entertained. Student life is about work, it's about long hours spent studying, snow-days that never come and eyes darting between a professor and a clock. Where does tech fit into all this?

Texting is the first thing that comes to mind, and from a teacher's perspective it must be a pain, turning your back to write something on the board only to turn around again and see a good number of your students using their cellphones with varying degrees of subtlety. But how often do professors turn around to write these days? It seems like the trend is to use "smart boards" and projectors to turn the classroom into a futuristic learning environment. This allows the teacher to spend more time dictating, it keeps the students on their toes as important notes flicker on and off the screen. The plugged-in life has been good to faculty, as well.

Yet no man is an island, and if one teacher's use of tech turns out to be less than acceptable, it can have adverse effects on the students who depend on it. For an idea of how students take to the effects of this gamble, I asked freshmen Yusuf Clarke. "[Technology] is effective depending on how it's used. It's usually good to give examples... It's made my life a lot easier, and I have more organization. I can put more things together on a flash drive than I can on pieces of paper." Clarke highlights the importance that digital mediums play during study, when classes are over and success depends on one's ability to memorize the material.

In the classroom it seems undeniable that tech has done more good than harm, and finding



Staff Photo

Lunchtime in the library, where there's no food... but where there IS high-speed internet.

proof of the impact of technology on our studying is only a simple matter of visiting our library, where almost every computer is filled during common hour. The printers are constantly cranking out notes and assignments while the sound of a thousand keys being typed on form the backdrop for the no nonsense environment. It wouldn't be hard to use the computers to go on

websites that have little to do with school, and yet, that's something you rarely find. Students may use the internet to procrastinate, but at the end of the day we realize that what we've got on our hands is a valuable resource. Technology is here to stay, and it seems we'll coexist peacefully.

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Facebook: Fad or Unstoppable Force?

By Catherine Muldoon

I'll be honest; I have Facebook open on my phone while I'm writing this article. Everywhere you go people are talking about Facebook. The question, though: is Facebook just for the young adult, or is it for people of all ages? And how do we know it isn't just another fad?

Facebook has 550 million users worldwide and that number is expected to reach 600 million by next year. It is a tool that enables its users to connect with one another and update each other about events. The average Facebook user uses it to share pictures and videos as well as stay connected with family and friends. It is not uncommon to hear of a person connecting with distant relatives from other countries through the service.

As with any trend, there are those that take Facebook to the extreme. These are the people who

have 1,456 pictures, 63 videos, and "Like" another 489 things. They are the ones who comment on anything, and who update their status with things like "I'm getting ready to blink!" These people are the reason some think Facebook is immature and just for teens. Plus, experts like Rhys Blakely of The New York Times say that anything that appeals to teens has a faddish quality about it since they change their interests so often.

But Facebook serves as a useful business tool. Over 3 million companies use the site for marketing. The consumer of Facebook is not the user; it is the "self-serving ads" we see on the side bar, the revenue from which keeps Facebook running cost-free. These ads are tailored to the specific user. For example, if you list "running" among your interests you will often find ads for running shoes on your sidebar.

In the age of technology, we get our information faster than the speed of light. Facebook is a very useful wellspring of information. People often find out about current events from Facebook rather than newspapers. It has also been said that Facebook is

the start of what people like Tim Bajarin of PCMag.com are calling the "Social Web". Currently, if you wanted to find information on trips to Alaska you would search travel sights and Alaskan websites. In the Social Web, by searching "trips to Alaska" you would find information from people who have gone to Alaska, and they would share the best travel information and rates. This idea was brought to life by websites like Facebook.

One very important thing to remember about Facebook that many users overlook is that privacy is limited at best. Any personal information shared like age, school, email address, and phone number is all displayed for anyone to see. Facebook is constantly updating to make itself more accessible to the user, yet it seems to neglect making the privacy settings any easier to navigate.

So far Facebook seems to be standing the test of time, but it is impossible to predict how cultural preferences change. Facebook could be the internet of the future, or it could turn into another ancient fad.



Student Life & Academics: Guest speaker Elaine Pasqua talks about "Surviving the Party".



Arts & Entertainment: We take you inside the Brooklyn Museum of Art.



Sports: We preview the Bears and Lady Bears for the 2010/2011 season.



Photo by Lisa Murphy

Guest speaker Elaine Pasqua poses with SJC students after delivering a lecture warning of the dangers of excess.

Surviving the Party

By Catherine Muldoon

The four years students spend at college are the most memorable and engaging years of their lives, but many students take the social scene to the extreme. Binge drinking on a weekly basis has become a college epidemic around the country, and Elaine Pasqua visited St. Joseph's College on October 21, 2010 to educate the students on the dangers of binge drinking and how to "Survive the Party." Pasqua is a motivational speaker on topics involving sex, drugs, and alcohol because she feels the three are interrelated. She has been to over 400 colleges and universities since 1997 preaching the dangers of such high risk behavior. She was nominated the Best Speaker for 2009 and 2010 Campus Activities Reader Choice Awards, she has been a keynote speaker for the NCAA, she was featured in USA Today, Time Warner TV and she has provided training for the NY Giants.

Pasqua began the discussion by announcing that it was National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. She said that she likes to share her stories with students because she has met too many people who do not make it to where they want to be because of one decision that changed their lives. The statistics she shared over the next 45 minutes were mind-blowing.

Binge drinking in males is defined as 5 drinks in 2 hours and 4 drinks in 2 hours for females. 1 drink is defined as 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine and 1.5 ounces of liquor. It is very easy for college student to binge drink without even realizing it because red Solo cups are very common. These cups contain 16 to 18 ounces of liquid. What someone thinks is 1.5 ounces of liquor is more commonly up to 4 ounces.

The body can only clear one drink per hour. The excess alcohol is stored in the brain and it systematically shuts down as a result. The cerebral cortex is the first part of the brain that shuts down. This area controls rational thinking and once it shuts down, our primitive instinct are left. The next part of the brain to shut down is the part that regulates fluid. The drinker becomes dehydrated, but hydration is needed for muscle recovery. One night of binge drinking will affect the body for three days. The third part to shut down is muscle control. This is when a drinker begins to slur his or her speech and become uncoordinated. This leads to countless alcohol related accidents that lead to permanent injury and death. The fourth and final are of the brain to shut down while drinking is the medulla. This area controls respiration and heart rate. Three hundred college students die because of alcohol poisoning each year because they let themselves drink enough to shut down this part of their brain.

Pasqua made it clear that she was not there to tell students not to drink. She simply wanted to make sure students know how to drink responsibly. She said you should not drink more than one drink per hour and it is a good idea to alternate between and alcoholic and non-alcoholic drink to maintain hydration. She also described the Amnesty Law. This law stated that any underage drinkers who bring someone to a hospital for help would not be punished for drinking. This is to encourage people to get help instead of being scared of getting caught.

Unprotected sex from nights of binge drinking is becoming an epidemic on college campuses. Thousands of students have sex because of alcohol and they can't even remember if they consented. This type of behavior leads to the transmission of STDs, and Pasqua did an exercise with the group to show how quickly an STD can spread. She had medicine cups mostly filled with water, but 8 of them were filled with a chemical which turned pink when tested. By exchanging fluids among the students, at the end of the exercise 48 cups turned pink. She also did an exercise to show that when someone has sex with a partner who has only had sex with one other person, this means they are involved in a chain reaction of sexual encounters. It takes just one encounter to increase your chances of catching an STD exponentially.

The point of the discussion was to make the students aware of how to drink responsibly. It was to encourage them to know their limits, keep a straight head, always watch their drinks, watch out for each other, and to be careful in general. College is supposed to be the most memorable time of our lives, but you have to live through it to remember it.

Zumba, Yoga, and Interval Training Keep SJC Students in Shape

By Jaclyne Washington

Students at SJC already know about the fully equipped fitness center in the basement of Tuohy Hall, which is for both athletic and non-athletic students and faculty. What many students do not know about are the new attempts being made by the Athletics Department to provide classes to help students stay in shape. Since the start of the new school year, three classes have been made available to all students and faculty: Zumba, Yoga, and Interval Training.

Frank Carbone, the head of the Athletics Department, came up with the idea for the classes. His connections at the YMCA led him to the three instructors, Emily (Zumba), Aynsley (Yoga), and Tim (Interval Training). All of them are professionals in their individual fields, who volunteer the time to come to the school. The goal, Mr. Carbone stated, was to "create a healthier, more fit environment," and to provide "something for everyone, including the faculty."

Zumba, a fast-paced aerobics class centered on Latin Hip-Hop dancing, is the best class for students trying to ease their way into a steady workout routine. The choreography of the dances are fast, but no one is expecting perfection: the point is simply to get your body moving while also having a good time.

Yoga is, as one would expect, a little more calm and relaxing. For newcomers the complex poses might be more difficult than ex-

pected, but the instructor moves slowly and gives the direction needed for them to be done properly without causing any injury or severe discomfort. This class is the smallest, with only 3 members currently in attendance, and is the most in need of new people.

Interval Training has the highest attendance rate, and is the most intense workout. As the title would suggest, the hour consists of a series of intervals: 20 seconds of intense cardio exercise, followed by 20 seconds of rest. The goal is to make participants more physically fit and to boost metabolism so that calories can be burned more easily. The first day is always the most difficult, even for students involved in the school's many sports. But by the second week, an improvement in one's physical fitness can already be seen, and it is much easier to keep up with the many different and challenging exercises given.

Information on dates and times for the classes can be found in the school email, where "This Week in SJC Athletics" is sent. If they are successful, Mr. Carbone says more classes may follow shortly. When the new fitness center for the school, scheduled to be completed in 2011 or 2012, is built, it will include a dance studio and aerobics room, and the classes will be moved there.

College, Guest Speaker Warn of Facebook Abuse

By Roseangela Fracchiola

St. Joseph's College has taken initiative to inform the student body about the dangers of Facebook. On Monday, November 1st in Touhy Hall Auditorium, C.L. Lindsay, an attorney, author, and Student Activist, addressed the students of St. Joseph's about how much Facebook and other internet outlets affect our lives.

C.L. Lindsay was a New York City lawyer until he decided to leave the practice and begin his own organization, Co-Star. The Coalition for Student and Academic Rights has become a national student's rights organization. The reason this organization is booming is because it answers any legal questions college students may have free of charge. Lindsay travels to colleges and provides information about the potential dangers of online social networks. As Facebook users, we may be unaware that more than sixty percent of all employers check Facebook before hiring a potential employee.

When asked why it is so crucial to familiarize ourselves with this issue, Theresa Bosque of the St. Joe's Campus Activities Board comments: "Facebook is very popular and although it is mostly seen as a social network to vent and be personal with friends, people forget that future employers, landlords, etc. can see your Facebook and not give you a job based on your pictures, comments or language you use. We felt it was important to have a speaker come to the college to address this issue." We are so quick to post the newest pictures of the happenings in our lives, for example, and in many cases the more promiscuous the pictures the more interesting our life becomes. Yet Facebook users, especially college students, become negligent with their privacy and forget that once you click "Publish" those pictures are no longer "My Photos" but become all of our of our photos.

As students at St. Joseph's it is imperative that we take action in our own lives to ensure success when we begin the rigorous hunt for jobs. This seminar will not only inform us the perils of the internet but it will also enlighten students on the rights we do have to privacy. As the future of this country, we must feel inspired and empowered to for the right to our privacy rather than the privilege of privacy.

Remember, for more information or for answers to legal questions visit www.co-star.org. This is a free and easy way to become acquainted with the privacy laws surrounding students.

The Cyber-Bullying Epidemic

By Jaclyne Washington

Cyberbullying has gone from an occasional occurrence on Facebook and Twitter to a nationwide epidemic that affects millions of teens. In the anonymous world of the internet, students can write things about their classmates that are far crueler than anything they would dare say in person. Personal attacks based on race, sexual orientation, or rumors about the victim have all become a part of this phenomenon. At first, it was dismissed by lawmakers, who felt that bullying via the internet couldn't possibly harm children. However, the ever-rising number of teen suicides brought on by cyberbullying is proving them wrong.

On September 22, 18-year-old Tyler Clementi jumped off the George Washington Bridge to his death after a sexual encounter with a male student was filmed and streamed to his classmates by his college roommate. In 2009, Phoebe Prince, age 15, hanged herself after being bullied both at school and on the internet by a group of people she thought were her friends. Megan Meir, age 13, hanged herself after being bullied by a classmate's mother on Myspace in 2008.

The "sticks and stones" philosophy we're taught as kids just isn't working anymore. Words can hurt us, and they affect teens much more deeply than we originally thought. Bullies have always existed, but thanks to the internet, victims no longer have a way to escape them. The torment doesn't end when they come home from school. Now Facebook, Myspace, and Twitter can all be mediums through which bullies can reach them. And often when they reach a breaking point, no one is there to stop them from doing the unthinkable.

How many children have to die before we realize that this has gone too far? Bullying is a serious issue in this country, and just because it has taken a new form doesn't mean it shouldn't be taken seriously. After the death of Phoebe Prince, the state of Massachusetts began efforts to make cyberbullying illegal, but where that will lead and whether or not it will actually prevent this problem from worsening is unknown. The case of Tyler Clementi, who died a year after Phoebe Prince, shows that the issue has certainly not gone away, and more decisive action needs to be taken.

In the meantime, St. Joseph's students have shown their support any way they can. Poster boards where students can write words of encouragement have been placed in Tuohy Hall as a memorial to Tyler Clementi, and for other students who may be contemplating suicide for the same reason he did. If the kind words scribbled in Crayola marker help even one St. Joseph's student feel better about themselves and gain a sense of self-worth, the gesture will have been well worth it.

FYE: Freshman Year Experience or Freshman Year Exasperation?

By Kristen McMaster

As a freshman in college you are a fresh face and a newcomer, and with new things come new experiences, and of course loads of questions. Though one freshman may seem more confident than another, odds are that both of them are equally nervous and confused about a new school. Is orientation really enough to answer all the questions about college? And what about the new questions that arise after the first day? Who is going to answer those? These are the reasons for St. Joseph's College's FYE program.

The "Freshman Year Experience", as it is formally known as, is a one-semester program that transitions freshmen into college life. FYE is a weekly gathering of small groups of freshmen on Mondays at common hour. The groups are completely random and were assigned at orientation. The program includes help with time management, critical thinking, self-assessment, and even special seminars with relevant speakers. FYE is the chance for freshmen to ask any question they have about the college and college life. Each group is paired with a Peer Advisor and a Peer Leader. The Peer Advisor is a member of the faculty or staff who provides the ultimate assistance in such a small student to advisor ratio. The Peer Leader is there to provide their personal opinions and stories about their experiences at the college. They are current students of the college who volunteer their time to make the freshman feel more at home while they begin their journey in a new school.

In theory, the Freshman Year Experience is a fantastic idea to ease freshman into college life. They get to meet fellow

classmates and get to have their questions answered in a friendly, casual environment. Jody Dublin, a staff member for the Office of Student Life, said, "FYE is a great way for admins and students to interact in a positive, interesting way". She went on to say that she loves meeting all the freshmen and enjoys watching their growth throughout the semester. FYE has a "suggested attendance" (which every upper classmen knows in St. Joe's lingo that basically means mandatory.)

In reality, after speaking to a number of freshmen, the enthusiasm that faculty and staff may feel towards FYE hasn't quite hit the freshmen as hard. Freshman Eva Acevedl said, "FYE isn't terrible, I just could find other ways to spend my Monday common hours, I could even go home". Another freshman, Stephanie Pidala, nodded her head in agreement and added, "FYE is a nuisance. My questions get answered and it's sometimes helpful, but I still wish I didn't have to go."

Some freshmen have even opted for this. Roaming the cafeteria for unsuspecting interviewees, I found a group of freshman biology and chemistry majors, who openly told me that they don't usually attend FYE, and that there are more important things to

worry about. They told me that they only go to the important sessions. I asked them what defined an "important session", but all I got was a symphony of shrugging shoulders.

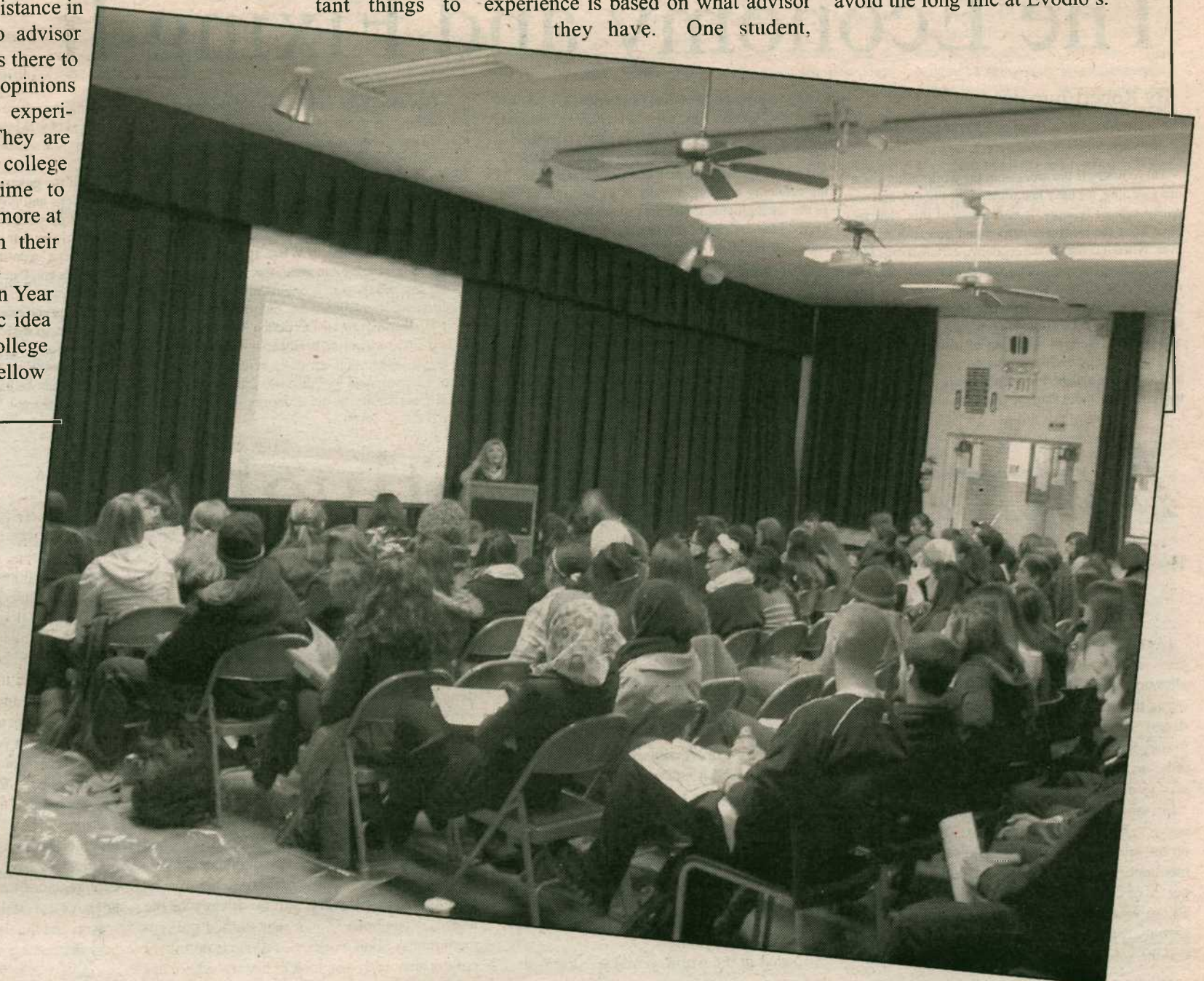
After I believed that freshmen all had the same opinion about FYE I decided to ask upper classmen. I ran into a senior, Danny Velez, and he told me, "FYE felt like I was in high school again, something like a PTA meeting, it was way too structured". He even mentioned that the peer leaders could have been spending their time elsewhere. Next to Danny sat Anthony Quagliariello, and he said, "I barely went to FYE, nor do I really remember it. I wanted to go to meet people, not do more work".

After hearing these opinions, I took them directly to Sherrie Van Arnam, the Assistant Dean of Students, and she told me that students understand time is valuable, and that if there is no significance attached to what is required (FYE) then students don't see the value. She stressed that the freshman should be motivated and encouraged to go to FYE because it is a rare experience that could be categorized as an extended orientation program, necessary for college growth.

I also spoke to another group of freshman that told me that their FYE experience is based on what advisor they have. One student,

Tricia Guya, said, "I thought that each class would be doing the same things, therefore everyone would have the same experience, but my friends in other groups tell me they do things completely different than my group". She went on to say that if you realize that the program is there for a good reason and look at it from a positive perspective, then it really is the best way to learn about the college. Tricia's friends agreed with her and added that FYE should maybe include more "ins and outs" about the college, and less about skills acquired through life experiences or high school. They collectively agreed that a good advisor and willing participants in a group make for a useful and enjoyable FYE, and that maybe a little more togetherness could go a long way.

I personally enjoyed my FYE, but I am not afraid to admit that I don't miss it. I am a true believer that the lessons learned during my time in FYE could last throughout my college career, and as a Junior I can say that so far they have. My advice to freshman struggling with the choice whether to attend FYE or not, I say go. You never know what you may learn, and if you absolutely cannot take anything from the experience at least you can get a free lunch and avoid the long line at Evodio's.



Members of the freshman class attend a presentation on e-registering as part of their Freshman Year Experience.



Cartoon by: Abigail Verbil

The Economy and Fixing It

By Robert Jurman

This country is the greatest in the world. Ever since our founding, we have had principles of liberty and security against tyranny. It is because of this, that we have been the most prosperous and powerful nation ever. When it comes to the economy, certain things like high taxes and overspending do not work here. We are much worse off now than we were 2 years ago. The deficit has skyrocketed. President Obama entered office with about a 2 trillion dollar deficit. Now, because of his out-of-control spending on useless stimulus packages and the health care fiasco we are about 13.5 trillion dollars in debt. President Obama has spent 12.5 trillion dollars more than the cost of the War on Terror.

This is no longer President Bush's deficit, it is solely President Obama's now, since he managed to outspend President Bush in only 2 years in office compared to President Bush's 8 years in office. The stimulus package was advertised as a plan that would completely fix the economy within 2 months of its passage, as well as the unemployment rate not going above 8%. However, on the contrary to this fantasy, we see failure. The economy is still in shambles and the unemployment rate reached 10.8% at one point. The Obama Administration has also been unable to produce one job.

The simple fact is that high spending and crippling taxes cannot fix an economy. President Franklin D. Roosevelt tried this with the New Deal and failed. In fact, Henry Morgenthau, FDR's own Secretary of the Treasury, said this in his private journals about the administration: "We are spending more money than we

have ever spent before and it does not work. I want to see this country prosperous. I want to see people get a job. We have never made good on our promises. I say after eight years of this administration we have just as much unemployment as when we started and an enormous debt to boot."

What did end the Great Depression was not the New Deal, but the private sector's production sky rocketing because of the outbreak of WW2. It is the private sector and the everyday American that creates a prosperous society and fixes an economy in recession, not big government. Republicans are fighting for fiscally responsible ways of fixing our deficit. Cutting taxes is a great method when it is balanced with cutting spending waste. When you cut taxes across the board for every American and for businesses, you the American Citizen can stimulate the economy on your own by

having that extra money in your pocket; you can go out and buy. When you buy you stimulate business and the private sector, and the economy grows dramatically.

So if the government just loosens the noose around our necks and gives us back some power, we will be able to do what we want with our money and fix the economy on our own. We'll fix it when we buy that dream car, open that business, buy that watch. That's America and that only happens with low taxes for all and when you cut spending. This will drive businesses both large and most importantly small to hire more and sell more, so we have wealth creation, job creation and lower prices. I hope you took this into account in the polling booth on November 2nd and voted Republican, so that we can keep more of our money and finally create jobs.

Acting Conservatively

By Mike Panico

Everyone knows our government and economy is in shambles. We are borrowing at an alarming rate, so much so that China pretty much owns this country. We (especially college students) need to be aware of what is going on. This money that is being borrowed and spent is going to be on our shoulders. If the economy does not start to improve, we will all be out of jobs.

So, what is the solution? First of all, everyone needs to be REALISTIC. Now, you have people on the far right who want absolutely no government intervention. I guess we should just totally get rid of our government? But, there are people all the way on the left that are saying we need absolutely a ton of government intervention, and that the government has to step in and take con-

trol of industry. The fact of the matter is: this is in no way shape or form realistic (see above).

If we really want to go back to our Founding Fathers, we can go back to the time in which this country actually was failing. At first, the Founding Fathers did not want any taxes. Also, many of the states considered themselves their own countries. If you were from New York, you were a New Yorker, not American. But, this, along with the Articles of Confederation, failed. So, we can take a look at both sides of the spectrum. The English government tried to take absolute control over the American colonies, with total government intervention. That didn't work out for them. The Founding Fathers then wanted no government intervention at all, and that failed. We can even go and look at the French, who never had a strong central government, had anarchy, and had a few revolutions.

So, what in the world should we do? Well, I

think it is pretty obvious that the direction President Obama is taking us is not working. But, what exactly has the Republican Party done? They were not voted out because the Democrats were necessarily so much better. It was because they veered away from their base. When President George W. Bush preached fiscal conservatism, he went and spent. When he preached security, he didn't put troops at the border. The Republicans are just as bad as the Democrats in reaching out to the American people.

So, what is the solution? If there was a solution, then there would be no debate, and the United States was built upon debate. Ever since our founding, we have been predominately a two party system, constantly debating the issues. Throughout our history, and the history of the world, it has been shown that limited government intervention works. Socialism is definitely not the answer. If you look at history, where has

socialism worked? Nowhere. But, of course, no system is perfect; just look at capitalism. In no way is capitalism perfect. If it were, everyone would be using it. The answer, based on history, is to have limited government intervention, allowing people to choose what they want to do with their life and money. We need a strong central government to defend us from outside forces.

So when you vote in any election, big or small, research each candidate. Don't just believe what the media says, for the most part. See which candidates believe in what you believe. Americans are angry. They are not happy with what the Democrats are doing. But they also distrust the Republican Party, which is why you see the emergence of the Tea Party. I unfortunately do not have a crystal ball, but I do think this election season and the debates to follow are going to be very interesting.

Fall 2010 Broadway Season Overview

By Diana Kessel

While the sight of falling leaves usually leaves me in a panic, totally not ready to face the winter, I also see the bright side: A new Broadway season is about to start in New York City, the theater capital of the world, and this incredible theatrical entertainment is a lot more affordable than you'd think! Just about every show playing on Broadway has a rush or lottery offer. If you wake up early before box offices open at 10 AM, you can get up to two Student Rush tickets with your St. Joseph's student ID. With shows such as "Memphis" and "Jersey Boys," these tickets are usually in the front row! Student Rush is undoubtedly easier, but at other theaters 2 1/2-2 hours before the show, you can enter your name for up to two tickets to get seats for around \$25 to shows such as "Wicked," "In the Heights," "Rock of Ages" and countless others! (For more information you can visit Playbill.com and click on "Rush and Standing Room Only" policies.)

The season began September 10th with the start of previews for the play "Brief Encounter" (based on the 1945 film about an unexpected love affair), but this was just the start. "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson" opened October 13th at the Bernard B. Jacobs Theater on 45th street. "BBAJ" is the story of our seventh president, Andrew Jackson, telling of American populism, anarchy, and a whole lot of theatricality featuring an in-your-face rock score. "BBAJ" transferred from a sold-out run off Broadway at the Public Theater last season. Though I've heard rave reviews, the subject matter is a bit "out there" for a mainstream audience. Try to see this soon!

One show I've seen twice so far because it's just that good is "The Scottsboro Boys", the true story of 9 young African American men unfairly and unjustly put on trial for the alleged rape of two white women in rural Alabama in 1931. Not only was "The Scottsboro Boys" incredibly moving (I'm talking the use of Kleenex big time here) but it also features the last remaining score of Kander & Ebb, the musical theater greats behind tunes from "Chicago" and "Cabaret." The cast is led by Joshua Henry, last seen in "American Idiot," who proves in this musical that he is an absolute star. This is currently the only all African-American cast on Broadway. You DO NOT want to miss this!



Photo by Daniella Giordano

Yet another Broadway season is getting underway at the heart of New York City in Times Square.

The popular holiday movie "Elf" is coming to the Al Hirschfeld theater on 45th street for a limited run November 2nd-January 2nd. "Elf" will surely be an entertaining musical, especially for our generation.

"Spiderman: Turn off the Dark" is a project a few years and millions of dollars in the making, and is apparently coming to Broadway November 14th. While ticket costs are certain to be sky high in order to pay for the revenue, hopefully the direction by "The Lion King's" Julie Taymor and a musical score by U2 will pay off. In the heart of

Times Square, "Spiderman" will be at the newly named Foxwoods Theater on 42nd street.

A play that certainly falls under the category of current events is "Time Stands Still," written by Donald Margulies. This four-person play follows actress Laura Linney playing Sarah Goodwin, a photojournalist for the Iraq war. After she is injured in a roadside bombing, she comes home to New York to find her long-term relationship unstable and everything from her old life falling apart. This is an incredible play that is sure to provoke thought and dis-

cussion on unexpected events in life that can suddenly change everything familiar. Currently playing at the Cort Theater on 48th street.

After an incredibly successful run at Shakespeare in the Park this past summer, the one and only Al Pacino is headed back to Broadway in "The Merchant of Venice." When movie stars come into classic plays, like Jude Law in last fall's "Hamlet," it's an equation for a sold out run.

Closing notice! While you have until early January to catch these following musicals, it's always good to have some

advance time to see what shows may have been on your list for a while: "Promises Promises," "West Side Story," and "A Little Night Music." I don't have enough good things to say about "Night Music," I thought it was phenomenal. "West Side Story" is an incredible classic, but it'll definitely come around again in ten years or so. In my own opinion, "Promises Promises" was a disaster, but I also seem to be the only person on earth who can't stand Kristin Chenoweth, so take that opinion for what it is.

MPFreedom: Local Artists Head Online to Find an Audience

By Menelik Joseph

Artists come in all shapes and sizes, but I'll wager they often share "starving" in common. The world doesn't ask for pretty music, it frets and complains and suggests that maybe the rhymesayers and guitarists put their efforts into something a bit more practical. This of course, always ends with a song that calms humanity through a troubled mood, or an artist being remembered forever.

We can only imagine how artists wooed the world in the days of yore. It must have been hard overcoming cultural barriers and gaining notoriety. But today, our talented locals use a thing called the Internet to get their music into the ears of many.

Brooklyn borough local Jelani Thompson is one such example. He's practiced his craft for years, but being good is only half the battle with the missing skirmish being notability. This young and hungry

The train of thought then, is that people with actual talent should gain a similar, hopefully bigger, level of exposure.

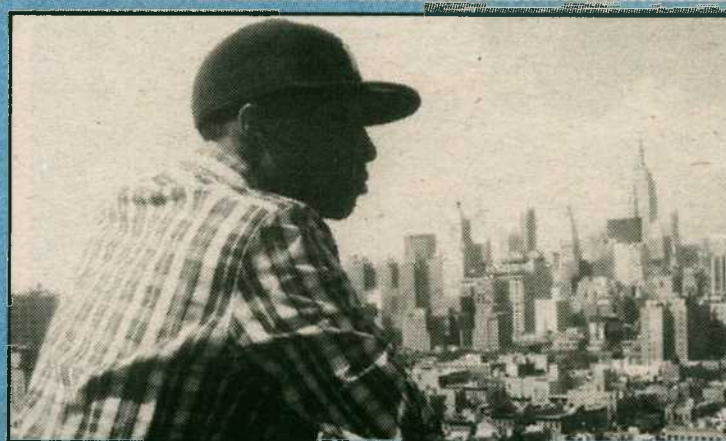
musician is set to embark on something perilous.

"The Internet, perilous? Why?" Well, when asked if the large amount of people submitting music online made it hard to be taken seriously, Thompson (stage named Noah Bility) was quick to answer; "Of course, there's a website called Datpiff.com where anyone can upload a free mixtape, so it's a flood of artists trying to get on." He went on though, adding the silver lining, "but then there are websites like 2dopeboyz.com where the owners

of the site only post what they think is worth a listen. It slims down the attention to a handful of artists rather than a flood. My goal is to be on 2dopeboyz.com for that reason."

The phenomena of a moderator picking out what's worthy enough to be listened to isn't striking. Youtube's 'Spotlight Video' feature works in a similar fashion; it still lets other videos be seen, just without the added advertising. Some Youtube vlogs have reached critical mass with views numbering in the millions, with Fred Figglehorn and Shane Dawson being prime examples. The train of thought then, is that people with actual talent should gain a similar, hopefully bigger, level of exposure.

A Saint Joseph's student has been playing music for years now; he chose to remain anonymous because of his band's name, "Stoned to Death". In his own words, social networking has actually been a major part of his music career. "We have a Facebook page, it helps get



Jelani Thompson (aka Noay Bility) is one of many young artists hoping to leave their mark online and on the world.

the word out when we have a show. Just Google 'Facebook, Stoned to Death' and I'm sure you'll find it." In fact, the band couldn't have been made if it wasn't for the power of the Internet. Two members were able to form the full-fledged ensemble using Craigslist.com, a website that has become notorious for helping you meet whoever you want, for whatever you want.

It's said that the only thing better than being the best, is being known as the best. And while that's debatable, no one can debate the impor-

tance of a little popularity. Whether or not the Internet continues to give birth to popular superstars or loses its status as a respected outlet for talent remains to be seen.

Noah Bility
<http://www.youtube.com/NoahBility>

Stoned to Death
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/stoned-to-death/298744214388?v=wall&ref=search>

The Brooklyn Museum: A Nearby Dwelling of Masterpieces

By Gabrielle Hughes

As SJC students, we have an advantage unlike other college-goers across the country: our environment. Living in New York City, we're within close proximity to some of the greatest art museums in the world. In fact, the Brooklyn Museum is just around the corner from the SJC campus.

Whether you're in search of ancient artifacts, or are more fascinated by contemporary pieces, there are more than 1.5 million objects in the museum's permanent collection.

The Brooklyn Museum is the second-largest art museum in New York City. The vast assortment of art housed there contributes to it being an excellent destination point. Whether you're in search of ancient artifacts, or are more fascinated by contemporary pieces, there are more than 1.5 million objects in the museum's permanent collection.

The museum is composed of five floors, each containing several assortments of art. Long-term installations include collections of ancient Egyptian, Asian, and Islamic pieces. Paintings, sculptures, photography and decorative arts from more recent centuries are incorporated as well. There is also a center for feminist art and an outdoor sculpture garden.

Special events take place on a regular basis. The museum's event calendar will inform you if there is a particular book signing, lecture, or panel discussion that may be of interest. Additionally, the Brooklyn Museum has free admission nights. The Target First Saturdays program allows visitors to enjoy the museum's exhibits without charge. On the first Saturday of each month, from 5-11 p.m., you can have a night of art and entertainment, completely free of cost.

With all that the Brooklyn Museum has to offer, planning a visit would be the next step. Worried that the cost will burn a hole in your pocket? Don't be. As college students, we can take advantage of a discounted admission fee. Present your SJC student ID, and you will gain entrance for only \$6.

Between classes, homework, working, and studying, a trip to a museum can be a fun way to take a break. The Brooklyn Museum will allow you to submerge yourself into different cultures, and absorb the inspired surroundings through the works of art on display. The wide variety of exhibitions is not limiting, as there is something for any art patron. With it being only blocks away from campus, why not take some time and visit one of the world's finest art institutions?



Photo Credit: Daniella Giordano

The entrance pavilion to the Brooklyn Museum of Art, installed in 2004, sits on Eastern Parkway.

I Came, I "Saw", I Loved

Spirit staff photographer Lisa Murphy reflects on her love for the "Saw" franchise.

By Lisa Murphy

We have just gotten through the month of October. When many people hear the word "October", they think of costumes and candy. Baseball fans think of the World Series. Many people even think, "Only 2 months until the holidays—better start shopping!" To me, though, October means a new installment in the horror series known as "Saw". Named this year by the Guinness Book of World Records as the "world's most successful horror franchise", the "Saw" series has delivered viewers a new film every October since the release of the iconic first installment in 2004, and according to Guinness, has grossed a total of \$733 million dollars worldwide.

What, you might ask, is so special about the Saw series? Why is it so successful? Why do people want to watch a film with such brutality? Well, I will tell you this: "Saw" is far more than just the typical blood-and-gore standard horror film. It's not all about some guy sawing off his foot (though the DVD cover might make it look that way). To "Saw" fans, the storyline is what makes the series so special. For those of you who have not seen any of the films, the basis (as described on Wikipedia) is simple:

John Kramer (aka Jigsaw) was an engineer dying from an "inoperable frontal lobe tumor". After a failed suicide attempt, Kramer gained a new respect for his life and set out to teach others to appreciate their own lives by putting them in situations that tested their will to live. If the subject did not survive the test (or game), they were considered to be missing a "vital piece of the human puzzle: the survival instinct". To symbolize this, Kramer



Photo Credit: Lisa Murphy's Friend, Most Likely...

Spirit staffer and avid "Saw" fan Lisa Murphy poses with franchise star Costas Mandylor at a fan convention.

would cut out a small puzzle piece from the subject's flesh, which, in turn, caused the media to call him "Jigsaw".

Throughout the films, viewers get to witness the cleverly crafted traps that are intended to teach the subject a lesson. Notice I keep using the word "subject" as opposed to "victim"; this is because in the logic of the films Jigsaw is technically not a killer. He designs his traps in a way that gives the person a chance to survive, and if they don't survive, it's because they didn't have the will to live. The interweaving of all of these subjects is one of the aspects that make the series so captivating.

What are also so ingenious are the connections from film to film. No aspect or element of the "Saw" series is a mistake. Everything in the films is there for a reason. That reason might not be revealed until a later installment but every open-ended question is ultimately answered. Until the answer is revealed, fans conjure up many different theories in attempt to answer those questions. This is what makes the series so much fun. In addition to the pleasure of seeing some blood and gore, each film leaves you thinking.

In its 6 short years the "Saw" series has generated quite a large following. In response to its popularity, the stars of the film have made appearances at famous comic conventions such as the San Diego Comic Con and the Long Beach Comic Con. In November of 2008, I attended "Sawmania" in New

York City. At this convention strictly dedicated to the "Saw" series, fans were given the opportunity to meet the stars of the film including the iconic Jigsaw himself, Tobin Bell, and participate in informal, interactive Q&A sessions with a panel of stars, directors, and producers. There are also "Saw" video games, and there's even a "Saw"-themed rollercoaster at Thorpe Park, a theme park in England.

A bittersweet event for avid Sawfanatics like myself, the supposedly "final" chapter of the "Saw" series was released on October 29th. Entitled "Saw 3D", the 7th installment of the franchise aimed to put the viewer into the traps and make "the traps come alive", as well as bring a sense of closure to the series. I, myself, have seen the film twice already and can say that the aims of the film were definitely achieved. The traps were extremely intricate and unique and the 3D aspect of the film truly enhanced the spectacle for the better. Initially, I had been afraid that the 3D feature would take over the film and cheapen the storyline, but this was not the case. The storyline was still strong and all of the unanswered questions from the previous films were answered. In my opinion, "Saw 3D" was an excellent way to close the series. For those who know (who have seen the first film): the fate of the legendary Dr. Gordon is revealed in "Saw 3D" and is something that is, in itself, a reason to see the film.

Movie Review: The Social Network

By Diana Kessel

It takes a lot for me to want to spend \$12 on seeing a movie. However, when word of mouth is so strong, it's impossible to resist. In this case, I attended the midnight showing of "The Social Network," the popular movie telling the short and recent history of Facebook, seemingly the most popular internet networking site in the world. With over 500 million users, it's easy to see why the general interest in the film is so strong. What was striking about "The Social Network" is that

Interestingly enough, the twins in the movie were played by the same actor, Armie Hammer, who did an excellent job playing two wealthy future Olympic rowers. The was no distinction between a "good twin" or "bad twin."

When I saw that Justin Timberlake was in the film, I was less than thrilled. He portrayed Facebook investor Sean Parker, also known as the creator for the revolutionary music sharing site Napster. Needless to say, I forgot I was

It would be difficult to portray such important characters, people that nobody knows but who shaped a website millions use.

watching a pop star's take on Parker showed a man who seemed to know the business, as well as exactly who to talk to about gaining the most money and users.

Parker is instrumental in destroying the friendship between Mark Zuckerberg and Eduardo Saverin.

Moments I loved throughout the film were the mentions of elements instrumental to the Facebook we all use today. One significant moment was when another one of Zuckerberg's roommates asked if one of the girls in his class was single or not. Zuckerberg dashed off to his dorm room to create more web code, and the "relationship status" was born.

Overall, I absolutely loved "The Social Network" and would definitely see it again to gain a better understanding of not only human interaction, but more information on this website that has seemingly taken over our lives. Full disclosure: I checked my own profile twice while writing this article! This film is great for this generation to view, and also serves as a reminder of how connected we are to technology.

The creator of Facebook was a sophomore at Harvard named Mark Zuckerberg (played in the film by Jesse Eisenberg) who frequently collaborated on internet projects with his roommate Eduardo Saverin, played by the incredible newcomer Andrew Garfield. It would be difficult to portray such important characters, people that nobody knows but who shaped a website millions use. Eisenberg and Garfield had incredible chemistry that shows through in every moment. The film alternates from flashbacks of their Harvard days during the initial growth and change of the site, and the filing of the lawsuits in 2007 between Zuckerberg and Saverin, as well as a pair of twins Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss, who claimed to have the initial idea of a Facebook-type site. The Winklevosses sued Zuckerberg for \$65 million dollars (barely a dent in Zuckerberg's current real-life net worth of \$6.9 bil-

Preview: Bears Basketball '10/'11

With several players graduated and new blood coming in, the Bears may have an uphill road this season.

By Ralph Pazuko

The SJC Men's Basketball team is beginning what could be termed a rebuilding year after a 10-16 record in the '09/'10 season, and due to the fact that the team graduated five seniors and lost a couple key members either to transfer or academic eligibility.

In his tenth season as head coach Joseph Cocozello has a big job ahead of him. He

Returning players Jon Matzelle, Antoine Forehand, Thomas Karasinski, and Ismael Dabo have to step up and become leaders and bring the team together.

led the bears to a 2009-10 HVMAC Regular Season & Conference Champion and captured Coach of the Year honors as well. Although last years accolades in the end were newsworthy the team did not fare well outside of the weak conference play. In conference play the Bears were a perfect 6-0 but out of conference play they were a 4-16.

In June 2010 the Bears graduated their top statistical category leaders: Lew Monaco, Wilkerson Exantus, Larry Fawcett, Mike Dziewit. These four men were at the top of every category from points per game to rebounds. An inside source on the team has informed the Spirit that the basketball team is adding eight to ten new members, which includes freshmen "recruits" and transfers. Integrating this amount of new players will be an uphill battle due to the inexperience; lack of chemistry will be another hurdle on the hill. Returning players Jon Matzelle, Antoine Forehand, Thomas Karasinski, and Ismael Dabo have to step up and become leaders and bring the team together.

Of particular interest is Matzelle, who is near a SJC milestone. With a total of 948 point Matzelle is only 52 point from 1000 career points. His freshmen year he scored 367 points, his sophomore year he scored 264 and his junior year Matzelle had a total of 317 points. Since Matzelle is the only returning scorer he must come back bigger then ever.

Now for the fun part of my job: the season predictions. So taking everything into consideration, from losing players to last season's poor performance I predict that the team will have a total of 11 wins. Now I am a true Bears fan and I want them to win more but as an unbiased writer I see them barely making 11.

I hope by our next issue I can write a new article about how the Bears are dominating the competition and playing with heart. Make sure to watch the men's basketball team play every home game at Brooklyn Technical High School and make sure that SJC has that elusive sixth man every time.

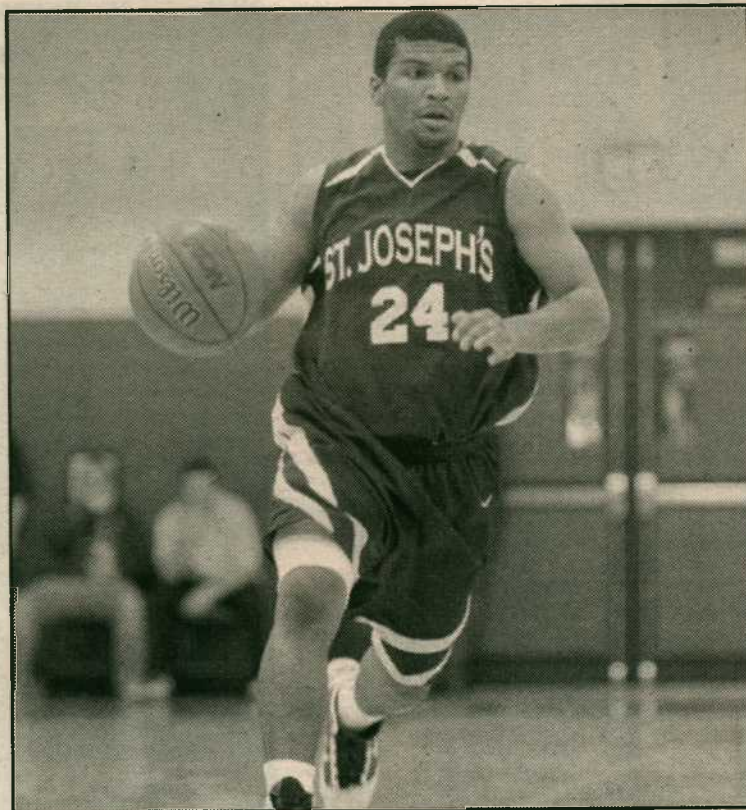


Photo by Anthony Macapugay

Antoine Forehand and the rest of the Bears are looking to shock the world (or at least Brooklyn.)

Preview: Lady Bears Basketball '10/'11

There's no reason to see why the perennial powerhouse Lady Bears shouldn't have another strong season.

By Matt Walsh



Photo by Anthony Macapugay

Junior Joanna Marciniac and the rest of the Lady Bears are ready to catch fire in '10/'11.

McQuillan last season had an amazing 439 points in a total of 30 games with 96 steals and 72 assists. McQuillan has to have another big season but as the point guard she needs to improve on the assists; last season she only averaged 3 per game. Teresa Mangan is a sophomore from Cleveland, Ohio. As a true freshman she scored 255 points in 30 games and also had 72 assists. The Lady Bears had a great all around team last season; they had 8 players who scored over 100 points for the season. Senior Alison Kavanagh, juniors Caitlyn Kakavas, Kristin Bincks, and Joanna Marciniac, and sophomore Janine Doran all scored over 100 points. Clearly good ball movement goes a long way.

There are a lot of positives about this team, but there is one glaring issue: the Lady

Bears lost a big role player. Julia Serewko played 550 minutes and had over 100 defensive rebounds and 40 offensive rebounds in the paint. Serewko also tallied 148 points. The Lady Bears don't have a center that's on the roster and will be playing either with three forwards or three guards throughout the duration of the season, so presence in the paint may become an issue.

Now its time for the preview prediction: I believe that the Lady Bears will have 18 wins this season because I expect a handful of breakout performances. With good ball movement and scoring off the bench the Lady Bears should strike fear into opposing teams. Make sure you catch the Lady Bears home games at Brooklyn Tech High School.

Braylon and the Jets: How Much Responsibility Does One Athlete Have?

By Joey Naddeo

Early in the morning on September 21st, 2010, Braylon Edwards, a wide receiver for the New York Jets, was arrested for drunk driving. Uproar ensued.

Debates went on right into the Jets' next game the following Monday against the Miami Dolphins asking, "should Braylon Edwards play?" The majority of sportscasters called for a one-game suspension. Rodney Harrison of NBC's Football Night in America said this of Edwards: "You need to be suspended. This is the perfect opportunity for the Jets organization to send a message to the players, as well as the fans, to say, 'We just won't tolerate this. Winning is important, but setting an example to our youth across America is more important.'" The ultimate decision of the Jets? Braylon Edwards benched for one quarter.

The Jets went on to beat the Dolphins 31-23, with some big plays by Edwards, and the situation died down. But there never should have been a situation. Edwards didn't violate any of the terms of his contract, nor did he violate the NFL wellness policy. So why should he be punished by the NFL?

People like Rodney Harrison say he should have been banned to "set an example" for the team and the youth of our nation. But maybe it's time we give some people a little more credit, especially children. People seem to be quick to point at celebrities and video games and say that they're corrupting our youth. It might be hard to accept, but if little Timmy is getting wasted and stealing the family car to go for joy rides, maybe it's the parenting, and not Braylon Edwards, that could use a little work. The public likes to label high profile people role models, but the behavior of these people hardly ever warrants the title. How many rappers have family friendly lyrics? None of the popular ones. They're too busy pouring champagne on half-naked music video models. When was the last time thoughts of the rock star life didn't bring to mind copious amounts of promiscuous sex and ample substance abuse? Maybe the 1950's, if at all.

NFL players need a little bit more

credit, too. I know it's only natural to assume that if Edwards doesn't get punished for drunk driving, that every other member of the Jets roster is going to go out and do EXACTLY what he did, but let's assume for a minute that all football players aren't idiots. I'm sure that after all the work these guys have put into getting into the NFL, they care enough about their season not to blow it on something like a DUI. Edwards might have shown poor judgment, but he's only one man. And to punish the team by taking him out of the game would not only NOT set an example for these guys, but it would also

interfere with their jobs. Because that's what football is to these guys: a job. The players, the coaches, and the managers are paid to win football games, and that should be their only concern. Taking Edwards and keeping him from a game where he could potentially make a huge difference would run

counter to the interests of the organization, and that's all there is to it. If the Jets want to punish Edwards, they should punish him like a football player. They should keep him after practice, and run him. Hard. Just because he's a wide receiver, doesn't mean he's capable of endless sprinting. It will get painful at some point, and that's not the point where the punishment stops. And not only would it be ample punishment for Edwards, who would also have to face the legal implications of his decisions, it would also get him in better shape, and scare the rest of the team. Because nobody, especially not 300 pound linemen, likes high volume sprints.

None of this is to say that drunk driving shouldn't be taken seriously; it should. Had Edwards killed somebody, I wouldn't be writing this, and Edwards would be looking at jail time. But he didn't kill someone, he got caught, and necessary punishment will be delivered when he's prosecuted. And that's all the punishment he needs. The NFL is a football organization, and that's what it should concentrate on. Let legal issues be handled by the proper authorities.

It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity. ~Albert Einstein

One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man. ~Elbert Hubbard, *The Roycroft Dictionary and Book of Epigrams*, 1923

Never trust anything that can think for itself if you can't see where it keeps its brain. ~J.K. Rowling

The greatest task before civilization at present is to make machines what they ought to be, the slaves, instead of the masters of men. ~Havelock Ellis

We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology. ~Carl Sagan

Where there is the necessary technical skill to move mountains, there is no need for the faith that moves mountains. ~Eric Hoffer



In Defense of the Human Network

By Roseangela Fracchiola

It is Sunday night and I am staring at the blank page, wishing I had a time machine just to be transported back to one this afternoon when I could have started my homework. In fact, since I am so savvy as to have a time machine, I could very well just have a machine that can actually do the schoolwork for me. Suddenly, I hear the infamous "pop" sound coming from my laptop speakers. That invasive noise begins to sound like a hallelujah chorus when trying to do work, the perfect distraction. It is the Facebook indicator that one of my "friends" is inviting me to have a conversation with them.

My friend sends me a link to YouTube (an entirely different and equally as dangerous outlet for procrastination) and thankful for the distraction I eagerly click on the link. The video consists of a young woman (no older than myself) singing a song she undoubtedly wrote two minutes before filming. Her looks (incidentally the first thing being judged by the YouTube audience) are "unconventional" in every sense of the word. Her singing sounds like a carbon copy of those heard on the most enter-

taining preliminary auditions of American Idol. The video was humorous, for reasons unknown. Or, I knew the reasons but had trouble admitting that I found someone to be unattractive and to be singing badly. Halfway through the video, I felt an overwhelming amount of sadness come over me. I couldn't help but wonder if she knew the way the world was judging her or if she even cared. I envied the fearlessness she demonstrated. As if all of the negative comments following her video didn't exist. However, as I was watching this video, a tiny byte of our own lives, I realized maybe she wasn't fearless at all; maybe she was just as scared as the rest of us, a fear that if her video wasn't made her life would be unrecognized. My sadness was slowly turning into empathy for a plight quite familiar.

Watching this video brings me back to a recent documentary on HBO entitled "Teenage Paparazzo." The film follows a young teenage boy, Austin Visschedyk, a young man so fixated on fame that he spends his

nights chasing down celebrities to take their pictures. The documentary highlights a very important issue in our society today, and features NYU Professor Thomas de Zengotita who pinpoints the problem of the young paparazzo and our young lady in the video: "In this society, if you are not famous, there is a certain very real sense in which you don't exist."

Suddenly my empathy towards the woman in the video and the

young paparazzo was understood. Everyone wants to be recognized and known for something extraordinary. Yet, gaining recognition for

writing the next great American novel or becoming a world leader is somehow not in vogue anymore. Why do those things when one can turn on their webcam and with the right lightning spark the next case of "Bieber Fever" for America?

Every moment has become an opportunity to express ourselves. It is why I was actively avoiding my schoolwork but had Facebook open, waiting for a notification, a notification that someone "liked" my life or found my thoughts to be

interesting and worthy of attention. Every moment spent on the internet is an opportunity to create an image of "you" that is glamorized and ready for primetime. Yet when we actually turn on our televisions what we see is entirely different. We see young men and women fighting for our country and being unrecognized for it, or we see candle light vigils for a student from Rutgers being recognized far too late.

It is unsettling to see the state we are in. We can no longer recognize if we are Dr. Frankenstein creating the monster or if we are the monster ourselves. How do we come back from this? How do we fix what seems to be irreparable? Maybe it is time to turn off the cameras and get back to human networks rather than social networks. Recapture the integrity of having a conversation face to face and understanding that the next popular phenomena may not always be the right one. There is a lot to be said of compassion and kindness. To be recognized in an unflattering video is not what is beautiful about our world. It is the fundamental idea that when someone does something truly great, something undeniably worth seeing, then it shall be recognized.